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Deficient  vide comments below  mments:	— ·	Cation deficient'
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\_Lc

## IntraCompany Correspondence

Location:

Mr. R. J. Beauchamp

Messrs.:

I ocetion—Fat

T. H. Best W. Chaldekas R. W. French

J. A. Hamann

Materials Engineering/

R. I. George R. J. Green

Subject

AMTEK/32620

H. A. Johnson R. J. Laniewicz J. K. Nemeth

RTV Gasket -Nvlon Valve Covers. April 22, 1980

J. A. Seidl W. D. Smilev

In the course of development work on the mylon valve cover used for lightweight engines, we evaluated formed-in-place gasket materials. Almost immediately, "gasket in a tube", service part number 8993317, was suspected as being deficient. G.E. was contacted and upon reviewing our data, concurred with our position. Samples from each carton on hand in the tool crib have been checked and some were found to be bad. All were found to be out of shelf life.

#### Current Status:

- RTV formed-in-place gasketing, as currently released for plastic valve covers, is a viable sealing system. Adhesion to both mylon and steel is excellent.
- 2. Those valve cover leaks which have shown up in the test program recently are most likely due to deficient material. The record should show that all leakers were engines which had been retrofit at AMTEK. Materials Engineering knows of no leaks on engines as originally assembled in Kenosha using bulk material.
- 3. The problem of deficient material in the tool crib has been resolved. Materials Engineering has arranged with the local G.E. representative for fresh material to be furnished to the crib (at no cost) on a regular basis. The crib has been advised to discard its current stock. This applies not only to the valve cover but to any sealing job on "D" fleet vehicles where "gasket in the tube" is used.
- G.E. has been requested to review this problem with National Service Parts in Milwaukee.
- 5. Shelf life recommendations as printed on all packages is one year at temperatures not to exceed 80°F. Each tube is date coded on the crimp. The first two letters on year and month. The 1980 year is "K". Months begin with A for January and run through M. The letter I has been deleted from the system. MELTH

VEAR J. A. Hamann

C. MAP m. McIndie

/js

## 71

# IntraCompany Correspondence

Subject:

Valve Cover Sealing (G.E.) October 31, 1984

Russ Tanton of G. E. was in to discuss sealing of the valve cover October 29, 1984. The following information was obtained.

- Olds and Pontiac are continuing with RTV.
- Buick, Chevrolet and Cadillac are going with molded silicon gaskets.
- No one else they know of is using plastic covers although covers and oil pans have been used in production. His opinion is that some people will be reconsidering it in lieu of the die cast costs.
- Both Olds and Pontiac are using some controlled depth at the bolts to maintain .020 or .030 thickness of KTV. (1673 PASSES P.S. I)
- With this controlled depth they recommend the RTV seal on two parallel planes (no steps, grooves, etc. to shear the RTV).
- Some steel covers have a few dimples in between bolts to keep the cover from contacting the head between two bolts (maintain the RTV thickness).
- We use 1473 RTV in plant currently.

The 1673 which they also recommend and we had tried earlier this year with total failure is being used by Pontiac. It skins over very fast so the cover must be installed quickly (not good for service type installations due to time to install). Also less viscous than 1473.

- Temperature cycling test on an engine is the best test method (soak at 20°F and run engine for 200 temperature cycles).
   Most joints fail in 15 to 20 cycles if they are going to fail.
- Some use pressure test head and cover assembly temperature cycled in place of the whole engine.

- Precured VIP 1443 was also presented. This is heat cured at 350° to 400°F on the cover and looks like an '0' ring permanently bonded to the cover. It is an approach similar to the SMS precured RTV we are testing. They recommend a controlled gap for this material also (.040 on our four cylinder cover). Pontiac is planning on this material on a steel cover for field service.
- The suggested program which we plan to proceed with is as follows:

## Six Cylinder

- A. Test 1473 RTV with flat faced covers (ground off) and with inserts installed to control the RTV to .020 thickness.
- B. Test the current cover with flush inserts and a precured bead of 1443.

### Four Cylinder

- A. Test 1473 on a modified cover which has a flat face (except for the drip rail and inserts which will control the RTV thickness to .020.
- B. Same cover construction but with precured 1443 VIP and inserts to control the compression to .040 gap.
- We will proceed with sample covers for testing.

Ry freez

2086R

RJG/kar

## 7

# IntraCompany Correspondence

To: List	Location:	Copy To: *W. Chaldekas
		*R. J. Green
		J. A. Hamann
_		*D. Hittler
From: C. Ang	263193K733148	*J. C. Lisabeth
•		*E. Schindler
		*W. D. Smiley
	_	O. J. Viergutz
Subject-up Material for Plastic Valve Covers.	Defebruary 14, 1985	*J. O. Vourc'h
		*Present at Meeting

It was suggested by D. Rittler at the February 5th meeting of the plastic valve covers that a back-up material be found for the 940 Rynite (PET) being developed to replace Vydyne (mineral filled mylon)

Ryton R-7, a glass and mineral filled polyphenylene sulfide compound, is being considered. R-7 has a flexural modulus of 2,400,000 psi and heat deflection temperature of 500°F. The following actions will be taken:

- Test on compatibility with suggested SMS silicone sealant, T400. Bond strength of the sealant to both untreated and "Corona discharge" treated Ryton R-7 placques was excellent.
- W. Chaldkeas is coordinating the purchase and delivery of a Ryton R-7 shipment to Evart and Jo-Ad for molding trials.
- 4.21 6-cylinder valve cover will be molded in production tools at Evant.
- 3.9L 6-cylinder valve cover will be molded at Jo-Ad with the prototype Kirksite tool.
- Advanced Material Application personnel will cover the moldings tentatively scheduled for the week of February 25th, pending the arrival of Ryton resin to Evart.
- Molded parts will be post cured at AMTEK in the Plastic Lab's oven and evaluated.



/ J6

# IntraCompany Correspondence

R. J. Green Amtek

D. Hittler J. Lisabeth

C. Miller

Location - Ext

R. Reuter J.Y. Vourc'h

Amtek

Subject:

VALVE COVER

OIL LEAKAGE STUDY; SUMMARY

March 13, 1985

Various thanges have been made to the existing I-6 & I-4 valve cover: to compensate for oil leaks and associated problems.

One of the first changes in the I-6 cover was an addition of washers to the bolts. This was done in hope of eliminating a torque loss problem. Torque loss is a severe problem since the covers lost an average of half of the specified torque over a short period of time. Two types of washers were evaluated: flat stainless steel washers and spring washers. Although both of these seem to hold the torque for a short period, the long-term effect did show torque loss. This occurred even when initial torque was elevated to 70 in-lbr.

The washers did not solve the torque loss problem, but they helped define the problem. Since the bolts continued to lose torque, but did not rotate, it was determined the cause of loss of torque was due to cold flow of the plastic valve cover. To assist in resolving this problem, another change implemented was a metal insert applied to the bolt holes. This was tested for an extended amount of time with positive results; the average torque stayed very close to the initial torque (70 in-lbf).

Another problem with the I-6 cover was warpage at the flange between bolt holes. A production cover with pre-formed RTV (silicone rubber) was thermal tested. After the first cycle, the bolts lost 49.8% of the initial torque; 56% after this final cycle. Also, after 3 hot-cold cycles, the cover warped considerably between the bolt holes on the right (spark plux) side of the cover.

In order to counteract this warpage, a more rigid material, Rynite 940 cover was molded for the I-6 and I-4 engine. Valve cover oil leakage Study The Rynite I-4 cover was tested with a pre-formed bead of RTV and also with metal inserts in the bolt holes, creating a .020 inch gap. A similiar arrangement for the production cover was made and these two covers were thermal cycled (5 cycles: -40°F 300°F). Results showed torque remained

the same throughout all cycles for the Rymite cover and during the 4th cycle, a loss of 1.5% occurred for the production I-6 cover. Also, the final cover to head distance was greater for the production cover by 80;

Besides thermal testing of the Rymite cover, a few I-4 and I-6 covers were molded and tested on fleet and lease vehicles. Tested covers included metal inserts in the bolt holes providing 0.20 inch gap and on the I-6, shims were placed on the left side to create the same depth. A preformed bead of RTV was used as a sealant.

In general, results show practically no torque loss, although most of the covers did develop oil leaks. This was due to the slightly out of print covers which resulted from problems in manufacturing the new material covers.

Production tools have been used to mold a limited number of valve covers in Rynite. After being inspected for dimensional stability, these covers will be tested on selected fleet and lease vehicles. These covers will also have spacers, pre-cured KTV and shims (I-6 only).

A thorough examination of these vehicles will determine whether the above stated methods will eliminate the oil leakage problem of AMC I-6 and I-4 valve covers.

CHiller

C. Miller

2321R/0082R/85 CM/fw

# IntraCompany Correspondence

J. Waterworth

Amtek

Location - Ext:

R. J. Green R. G. Kurowski R. H. Reuter C. P. Thoodore

W. J. Robertz

4.2L Production Engine

Rocker Arm Cover

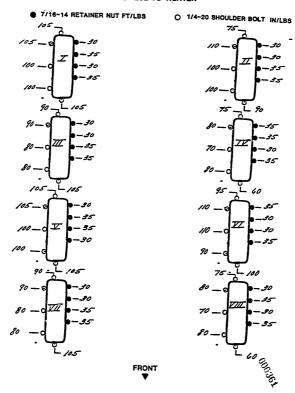
Amtek

July 11, 1986

The rocker arm covers on eight production engines EBU, received from Kenosha were evaluated for leaks and fastener torques. Each engine was pressure/zed to 5PSI and checked for leaks with "snoop"; none were found. Fastener torque to tighten torques were taken and recorded. The 7/16-14 retainers nuts were torqued to 35 ft/1bs in production, the torque to tighten of these retainers regard from 30-35 ft/1bs. The 1/4-20 shoulder bolts were torqued to 55 ft/1bs in production and their torque to tighten ranged from 70-110 in/lbs.

3889C/dma

## TORQUE TO TIGHTEN



IntraCompany Correspondence R. H. Reuter AMTER C. P. Theodore R. J. Green ocation — Ext Waterworth AMTEK Rynite Valve Cover Status July 21 1986 This report summarizes the status of the Rynite valve cover fleet through July 21, 1986. WJR/va Attachments 3797C/0033C

186		Displ.	HY		Hileage at Check/Hr.	
	General Service	4.21	81-Concord	7/14/86	3997	No visual leaks * (o)
1	General Service	4.21	81-Spirit	6/11/86	4320	No visual leaks * (o)
	1	4.21	81-Concord	6/11/86	3131	No visual leaks * (o)
ı	General Service	4.21	81-Concord	7/15/86	4076	No visual leaks * (o)
	General Service	4.21	81-Concord	7/11/85	9000	No visual leaks * (n)
	General Service	4.21	81-Concord	7/14/86	1750	No visual leaks *
. 1	General Service	4.21	82-Eagle	6/3/86	7000	No visual leaks
	General Service	4.21	82-5X4	7/15/86	į i	Installed new cover * (0)
_ 1	General Service	4.21	82-Concord	6/10/86	3759	i No visual leeks
1	General Service	4.21	82-Concord	7/15/86	3763	No visual leaks * (o)
_	General Service	4.21	82-Spirit	6/10/86	3759	No visual leaks + (o)
1	General Service	4.21	82-Concord	6/3/86	2732	l No visual leeks
1	General Service	4.21	82-Concord	6/6/86	į i	New cover installation
i i i i i i	General Service	4.21	82-Concord	7/8/85	į i	New cover installation
1	Genral Service	4.21	82-Concord	7/8/86	<u> </u>	New cover installation
1	General Service	4.2L	82-Concord	7/3/86	į i	New cover installation
	General Service	4.21	83-Eagle	6/12/86	1238	No visual leaks (No longer in service)
	General Service		86-Eagle	7/10/86	8700	No visual leaks (No longer in service)
_ 1	General Service	4.21	85-GH	7/14/86	13100	No visual leaks
	General Service	4.21	85- <b>G</b> H	7/16/86	4000	i No visual leaks
. 1	General Service	4.21	85-GY	5/22/86	2371	No wisual leaks
	General Service	4.21	85-GW	6/3/86	2857	No visual leaks (No longer in   service)
ė l	General Service	4.21	85-GH	6/3/86	3391	No visual leaks (No longer in service)
- 1	General Service	4.21	85-Eagle	6/3/86	( - i	l Vehicle no longer in service
(G. Dall Garage	General Service	4.21	96-EV	6/4/86	2400	No visual leaks
H. E. Wolfe	General Service	4.21	86-EV	4/23/86	3550	No visual leeks (No longer in service)
Hesse	General Service	4.21	1 86-6N	4/26/86	i 7800	No visual leaks (No longer in service)
Kent	General Service	4.21	86-GV	7,71/86	6000	No visual leaks (No longer in service)
<b>B</b> `	General Service	4,21	86-GN	4/24/86	10,300	No visual leaks (No longer in service)
_	General Service	4.21	66-EX	5/20/86	6000	No visual leaks (No longer in service)
. Wismercuth	General Service	4.2L	86-GW	7/16/85	5000	No visual lanks
G. Wildberger	General Service	4.21	86-6x	7/16/86	7000	No visual legis

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Name	Usage	Displ.	HY	Date Checked	Mileage at Check/Hr.	i · I Remarks
Dyno D4C-026	Durability	2.46L	86-XJ	7/14/86	39,935	No visual leaks (No longer in service)
·SC-009	Durability	2.46L	86-XJ	7/14/86	ai*000	No visual leaks (No hunger in service)
Dyno D4C-064	Durability	2.46L	86-XJ	7/14/86	30,000	No visual leaks (No longer in service)
Dyno D6C-015	Durability	2.46L	86-XJ	7/14/86	28,430	No visual leeks (No longer in service)
Dyno-GP-1	Durability	2,46L	86	7/11/85	2285.4 Hrs.	No visual leaks (No longer on test)
Dyno-6P-2	Durability	2.461	86	7/11/85	·1763 Hrs.	No visual leaks (No longer on test)
Dyno-GP-3	Durability	2.46L	86	7/11/86	1260 Hrs.	No visual leaks (No longer on test)

<sup>\*</sup> No bolt hold down holes on the ends \*\* PCV grounds hole dimension over size on proto covers causing seeping (A) Original cover was cracked at installation

anciss.

<sup>57952/0033</sup>C MJR/48

Memorandum

Location

Copy To:

P. H. Reuter

Amtek

R. J. Green R. G. Kurowski

From

Location -- Ext

J. Waterworth

W. J. Robertz

Amtek/3-3395

Continue

Dete

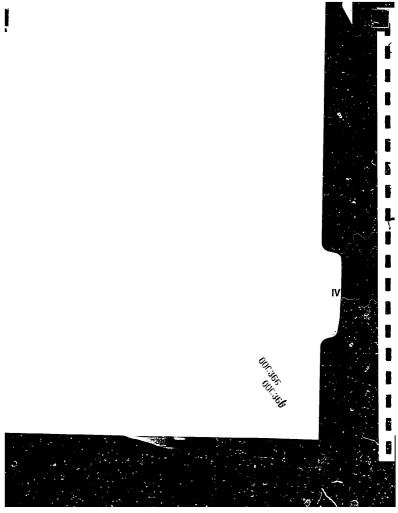
RYNITE VALVE COVER STATUS

December 19, 1986

This report summarizes the status of the Rymite valve cover fleet through December 12, 1986. The sixteen 1985/1986 PEP lease vehicles are now all turned in and are no longer available for evaluation. These sixteen vehicles, with a combined accumulation of 90,463 miles, did not show any visual signs of 11 leaks. The seventeen 1981/1984 vehicles had a combine accumulation of 143,513 miles, with the exception of one vehicle there have been no leaks. A very small percent of the 1981 vehicles will and do have a slight weapage at the ends of the rocker cover. This occurs due to the fact that on this model year there are no holes of tilled and tapped in the ends of the cylinder head for fasteners. This weapage, that causes dampness, has not created a problem.

W. J. Robertz

WJB/ncw





I.S

BEFORMATIONS SERVICE
SERVICE INFORMATION
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**3**E

MAY 1986 ENGLISH EDITION

1986 AMC EAGLE 1986 JEEP GRAND WAGONEER/TRUCK 1987 WRANGLER



**ENGINES** 

Attention: Workshop, Parts Department

#### 4.2LITER REVISED CYLINDER HEAD COVER

Starting in April, 1986 all 4.2L (258 cu. in.) engines will be equipped with a new cylinder head cover, PN 8933 003 691.

The new cylinder head cover comes equipped with a pre-cured RTV seal. The new cover is reusable as long as the sealer and/or cover are not damaged during cylinder head cover removal/installation.

Follow the procedure below for proper cylinder head cover removal/installation.

#### PROCEDURE

#### Removal

- 1. Disconnect the hattery negative cable.
- Remove the air cleaner assembly and the PCV molded hose.
- Disconnect the distributor vacuum advance hose at the distributor.
- Disconnect the fuel line at the fuel pump. Rotate the line as necessary to provide clearance for removal of the cylinder head cover.

- Remove the PCV valve from the grommet in the cover. Disconnect the PCV shut-off valve vacuum hose.
- Remove the vacuum switch and bracket assembly from the cover.
- Remove all necessary vacuum and air hoses to provide clearance for removal of the cover.

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{NOTE}}$  : Identify and tag the hoses for installation reference.

 Remove the cylinder head cover retaining nuts and bolts.



- Lift and tilt the cylinder head cover toward the passenger side and remove the cover.
- Inspect the cover for cracks and the sealer ν cracks and/or damage that may have σccurred during removal. Replace the cover if it is cracked or damaged in any way.
- NOTE: Small cracks in the sealer are allowed and can be repaired by applying RTV sealer to the cracked area before cylinder head cover installation.

#### Installation

- If a replacement cover is being installed, transfer the PCV valve grommets and oil filler cap from the original cover.
- Clean the cover and cylinder head sealing surface using a clean, dry cloth.
- Install the cover, shoulder bolts and retaining nuts.
- ighten the shoulder bolts and retaining nuts to 5.5 to 8.0 N·m (50 to 70 in. lbs.) torque.
- Connect the fuel line and distributor vacuum advance hose.
- Install the vacuum switch and bracket assembly on the cover.

- Reposition and/or connect all the air and vacuum hoses that were moved for cover removal clearance.
- Connect the PCV valve and the PCV shutoff valve hoses.
- 9. Install the air cleaner assembly and hoses.
- 10. Connect the battery negative cable.
  - Check the engine oil level and add if necessary.

#### **FILING INSTRUCTIONS**

Record this LS. Note in M.R. 251 page B-133, M.R. 253 page B-59, M.R. 279 page B-118 and file it in MOT. 4.2.



**ENGINES** 

I.S.

MFORMATIONS SERVICE SERVICE INFORMATION SERVICE INFORMATIONEN SERVICE INFORMATIONEN INFORMATIONES SERVICIO INFORMATIONES SERVICIO SERVICE INFORMATIONES SERVICE INFORMATICE 46E

MAY 1986 ENGLISH EDITION

19811/2-1986 AMC/JEEP WITH 4.2L (258 cu. in.) ENGINE



Attention: Workshop, Parts Department

#### 4.2 LITER REVISED CYLINDER HEAD COVER

A new cylinder head cover kit PN 8983 503 343 has been released for service use on 19811/2 to 1986 AMC/JEEP vehicles equipped with a 4.2L (258 cu. in.) engine.

1931½-1983 vehicles will require that the cylinder head be drilled and tapped for a 14"  $\times$  20 threaded insert. Obtain locally a Helicoli, Time-Sert or equivalent threaded insert kit.

NOTE: 1981½ models can be identified by having cylinder head cover retaining screws located at the front and rear of the cylinder head.

The new cylinder head cover comes equipped with a pre-cured RTV seal and is secured to the cylinder head with special shoulder bolts, and unique retaining nuts.

Follow the procedure included in the cylinder head cover kit.

#### PARTS INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	PART NUMBER
Kit, Cylinder Head Cover Contents: Cover, Cylinder Head Bolt, Shoulder Bolt, Shoulder, Short Bolt, 7/16 Bolt, Stud-1/2	1 1 4 1 2 1	8983 503 343
Bridge Nut, Retainer Helicoli 1/4 x 20 Installation Sheet	2 4 3 1	

### SRT/TIC INFORMATION

OPERATION DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	TIME	TIC
Co. Kit, Cylinder Head Cover-Install 19911/2-1983 models 1983-1986 models	0117 0113	1.7 hrs. 1.3 hrs.	1-141 1-141

## FILINS INSTRUCTIONS

Record this LS. Note in M.R. 251 page B-133, M.R. 252 page B-125, M.R. 253 page B-59 and file it in M.R. 171.

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Missiles and Electronics Group

April 24, 1987

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Ken W. Schang Director Vehicle Environmental and Safety American Hotors Corporation 14250 Plymouth Road Detroit. Mf. 4822

Dear Mr. Schang:

During the years 1984-85 AM General built 5.645 FJ-8C 1/2-ton sostal vans which were subsequently leased to the U. S. Postal Service by American Hotors Leasing Corp. under the terms of Jontract GS-00S-64456. These vehicles were equipped with 6 cylinder, 258 cubic inch engines purchased from AHC

In the past 2 1/2 years, the U.S.P.S. has reported 75 instances of engine compartment fires. The fires appear to be originating in the area of the carburetor/manifold. In some instances, the damage is quite severe, destroying the vacuum hoses, valve covers and melting the carburetor. Although there have not been any personal injuries, the U.S.P.S. Office of Fleet Management feels that this is an inordinate number of fires.

Apparently the alleged defect involves an inherent flaw in the design of the engine. We'are informed that a like problem sheen experienced with the Jeep product line. AMG engineering has repeatedly attempted to get AMC Vehicle Safety Enforcement involved - to no avail.

Since American Motors Leasing Corporation is the prime contractor, your cooperation is necessary in order to get to the root of the problem and resolve this issue to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Due to the potentially serious nature of this matter, we would appreciate an immediate reply.

Sincerely,

LTV Missiles and Electronics Group AM General Division

20. Marborres

A. W. MacDonald Director Logistics Operations ALACE SETT OF

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I MISSRES AND ELECTRONICS GROUP AM GENERA , DIVISION & TOLIN CHIPTEMA AVE. & SOUTH BEND INDIANA MARD 2011

American Motors Corporation

April 27, 1987

# COPY

Mr. Fhillip W. Davis, Director Office of Defects Investigation Enforcement National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 400 Seventh Street, S.W. Washington, D. C. 20590

Reference: PE87-024

Dear Mr. Davis:

This communication confirms our discussions at a meeting with you and your staff on April 8, 1987, and also responds to your March 30, 1987, letter (PEB7-024) regarding alleged engine compartment fires in model FJ-8C 1/2-ton delivery van vehicles manufactured by AM General, a division of LTV Aerospace and Defense Company.

We reviewed this matter and found that the engine location relative to the firewall and the material composition and routing of the vacuum harness in the AM General vehicles are significantly different from the American Motors Corporation (ANC) vehicles equipped with the 258 CID 6-cylinder engine. As agreed, this, in addition to the information recently provided to NHISA by AN General on this issue, precludes the need for ANC to submit the data requested in your Narch 30, 1987. letter.

Sincerely, ana a.Ca. 1

James A. Carlson, Director Vehicle Safety and Health Regulatory Affairs

cc: Mr. Richard Reed, NHTSA

JJP/au

4363v

bcc: K. I. Gluckman J. J. Podorsek M. W. Stucky NHTSA Chron



**PRELIMINARY** 

#### MEMO TO FILE

ISSUE: NHTSA's March 30, 1987, letter, PE87-024

Alleged Fires in 1984 AM General 1/2-Ton Post Office Vehicles

CHRON:

- o AMC received NHTSA's March 30, 1987. letter on April 2, 1987. The scope of the inquiry involves all 1984-1987 AMC vehicles equipped with the 258 CID, 6-cylinder engine which was also used in the 1/2-ton postal vehicles, model FJ-8C.
- o Dn April 3, 1987. Mr. Mallett met with D. Weiher, AM General, Livohia, Michigan, to discuss AM General's March 30, 1987. campaign of 5,645 model FJ-8C 1/2-ton delivery van: squipped with the 258 CID, 6-c/linder engine supplied by AMC. purpose of the campaign is to correct and re-route the vacuum harness assembly so it will not come in contact with the engine exhaust manifold and eventually catch on fire. Mr. Weiher provided copies of AM General's campaign information and response to P. Davis, NHTSA.
- o On April 10, 1987, Messrs. Mallett and Podorsek visited AM General Livonia, Michigan, to meet with G. derPibosian and to inspect an FJ-8C 1/2-ton van equipped with the 258 CID, 6-cylinder engine. It appeared that the vacuum hose assembly was not routed the same way as 1987 AMC Eagle equipped with a 258 CID, 6-cylinder engine (see photographs). Also, the hose material was different between the Eagle and the FJ-8C (i.e. plastic for Eagle and rubber for the postal van)
- On April 23, 1987, Messrs. T Cheema, AMC Engine Engineer and J. Podorsek visited AM General, Livonia, Michigan, to meet with M. Kunz and to re-inspect the FJ-86 vehicle. Mr. Cheema confirmed the differences between the AMC and AM General vehicles (see attachment).
- On April 28, 1987 AMC received from LTV, Mr. MacDonald's, April 24, 1987 letter regarding an alleged inherent flaw in the design of the engine and his apparent awareness of a like problem allegedly in Jeep vehicles with the same 6-cylinder engine.

J. J. Podorsek May 4, 1987

4420v/au

(00.33)

258 C.I.D Post Office vehicle As we discussed orlier today & am confirming the differences between our own released vacuum torneses and A.M General's veh. that we sow this morning 1- Location of dost panel extension is such that 90% of the vac borness has been rerouted and repochaged by A.M. Gan 2. The Rubbur tokes supplies "EMCO" is not an approved source to AME vac. formesses were not tred down as on required in our veh Specifically, there were fear voe takes which were nouted by A. M. Gen., such that going behind the engine and drooping over the manifolds; Where our takes are routed over the front of the engine to avoid the manifolds P. find arelased backup info The process sheets will be forwarded to you as soon as they become ovalable Talir S. Cheener OD 4-23-87

I DADT SEK,

#### American Motors Corporation

Vehicle Environmental and Salety Allairs 14250 Plymouth Road Detroit, Michigan 48232

May 11. 1987

Mr. A. W. MacDonald, Director Logistics Operations LTY Missiles and Electronics Group AM General Division 701 West Chippewa Avenue South Bend. Indica. 46680-2841 CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

This communication responds to your April 24, 1987. letter regarding the design of the 6-cylinder. 258 CID engine, manufactured by American Motors Corporation (AMC). These engines were sold for use in the 1984 AM General 1/2-ton, Model FJ-8C, delivery vans. In your letter you indicate that some of these vans have experienced engine compartment fires and you assert that there is an inherent flaw in the design of this engine. Also, you indicate you were informed that "a like problem (emphasis added) has been experienced with the Jeep product line." Which also uses the 258 CID, 6-cylinder engine.

Please be advised that we are not aware of any design flaws inherent in the engines sold for use in the 1984 MV General 1/2-ton, Model FJ-8C, delivery vans. Moreover, Jeep vehicles equipped with the 258 CID, 6-cylinder engine have not experienced the engine compartment fire problem identified for the 1984 MV-General 1/2-ton, Model FJ-8C, delivery van.

In March 1987. AM General Division of LTV Aerospace and Defense Company, informed NHTSA of a voluntary campaign of 5,645, 1984 AM General 1/2-ton, Model FJ-8C, delivery vans equipped with the 258 CID, 6-cylinder engine. AM General determined that if the vacuum harness assembly hoses in the engine compartment of these vehicles become loose or fall off, they could come in contact with the exhaust manifold and could result in a fire.

We have investigated this matter and found that the engine compartment design of the 1984 Model FJ-3C delivery van is completely different than that used in Jeep vehicles. The routing of the vacuum harness assembly in Jeep vehicles equipped with the 258 ClD, 6-cylinder engine differs substantially from the routing used in the 1984 Model FJ-8C delivery van. In Jeep vehicles, the vacuum harness assembly is routed over the engine and is appropriately secured to avoid hose contact with the engine intake and exhaust manifolds.

Further, we found that AM General sourced the hoses in the harness assembly to a vendor which is not used by AMC for such parts. Finally, we found that the routing and the securing of the vacuum harness assembly used in the 1984 Model FJ-8C delivery van was designed, developed and implemented into production by AM General and not by AMC.



In summary. ANC has found nothing to support the existence of an alleged inherent design flaw in the 258 CID, 6-volinder engine. As noted above, there are major differences in the engine vacuum harness assembly configurations used in Jeep vehicles and in 1984 AM General 1/2-ton, Model Fi-BC, delivery vans. Jeep products have not experienced the engine compartment fire problem identified for the AM General Model Fi-BC. Further, based on the vacuum harness design utilized in our Jeep vehicles, we do not expect that such a problem could develop.

AMC believes that the action by AM General to campaign 1984 AM General 1/2-ton, Model FJ-BC, delivery vans because of the defect they identified was appropriate. The nature of the defect which precipitated this campaign involves decisions made by AM General in the design, sourcing and assembly of the vacuum harness, and not an inherent flaw in the design of the 258 CID, 6-cylinder engine.

Sincerely.

Games A. Carlson, Director Vehicle, Safety and Health Regulatory Affairs

cc: R. Houtman, Assistant General Counsel

JJP/au

4417v

boc: G. Dem?: :bos..ar R. M. Johnson G. A. Maddox

F. I Masten L. F. Miller H. R. Sandler G. W. Scharbact D. P. Weiner

August 25, 1987

MR. James A. Carlson, Director Vehicle, Safety and Health Regulatory Affairs 14250 Plymouth Road Detroit, MI 48232

Dear Mr. :arlson:

This is  $i_1$  further reference to my letter of April 24 1987 concerning engine compartment fires on USPS FJ-8C vehicles and your reply of May 11, 1987.

The USPS is continuing to experience engine compartment fires on their FU-8C fleet. Over 95 fires have been recorded to date. These vehicles contain the 6-cylinder 258 CID engine manufactured by American Motors Corp. (AMC) which was dressed with emission hoses by AM General. Extensive research, testing and evaluation has been conducted by our Product Engineering Department to determine the exact cause of these fires. The following chronology defines these activities:

March 14, 1987 - Steel fuel feed line provided to USPS at AMG expense - Retrofit Program has been completed. December 3, 1986 - AMG Product Engineering released rework

instructions to Field Service Department

for rerouting of vacuum hoses.

- USPS received technical bulletin from AMG Field Service Department describing the rework and rerouting of vacuum hoses.

February 26, 1987 - USPS issued a formal complaint to Mr. Phillip Davis, Office of Defects Investigation of NHTSA, concerning FJ-8C engine compartment fires.

March 24, 1987 - AM General Safety Committee determined that a safety related defect existed requiring notification to NHTSA.

March 30, 1987 - Notification letters of safety related defect sent to NHTSA and USPS. NHTSA assigned Campaign #87V-041.

April 2. .987 - A notice from NHTSA was received by Mr. D. P.
Weiher of AM General Product Assurance informing
us that a defect investigation was in progress.

3656\*\*

Apr: 2, .987

- Letter sent to Mr. Richard Reed of the Office of Defects Investigation explaining that AM General is conducting Campaign #8 7-041 to :etrofi: al suspect vehicles. Per telecon with Mr. Reed and Mr. D. P. Weiher this satisfies their letter of request for information dated april 2 1987

April 10, 1987

- USPS Field Modification Bulletin #VMO-05-87 issued to correct vacuum hoses on all FJ-8C vehicles.

Subsequently, we received additional reports of engine compartment fires after the vacuum hose rework and rerouting was performed. These incidents were directly related to excessive oil on/or about the plastic valve cover. Our field history of fire incidents cite several cases where excessive oil was noticed after the fires. However most vehicle fires destroyed such evidence. It is our field service experience that the old AMC plastic valve cover 7/N 8933002393 does warp due to exposure to engine heat and that warpage results in leakage of engine oil onto the cover and related adjacent components, hoses and hardware.

We are well aware, that a; extensive change was made by AMC on securing this plastic valve cover to the cylinder block. Since heat exposure is to be expected for valve covers and since oil leakage due to valve cover warpage is an undesirable design characteristic, we feel it is incumbent for us to advise you of NHTSA's awareness of this campaign so that any future unfavorable publicity directed toward the AMC Division of Chrysler Corporation can be avoided.

Therefore, we are requesting AMC to supply a quantity of 5,645 new improved 10-fastener mounted valve cover kits P/N 8983503343 on a "no charge" basis to AMG's Field Service Department, South Bend, IN for use in conjunction with Campaign #87W-041.

AMG is confident that Mr. Iacocca's commitment "We just want to be the best" is in harmony with this request.

Sincerely,

LTV Missiles & Electronics Group AM General Division

A. W. MacDonald

Director Logistics Operations

Copy furnished: Mr. L. Iacocca, Chief Executive Officer Chrysler Corporation, Detroit, MI

Mr. Paul Rosenak, USPS, Washington D.C.



### UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE Delivery Services Department 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW Washington, DC 20260-7200

September 21, 1987

Mr. Frank Henderson Director, Government Vehicle Sales - Washington 1100 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20036-4104

Dear Mr. Henderson:

In accordance to your recent telecon with Paul Rosenak of my staff, we have enclosed a copy of the letter written by LTV Missiles and Electronics Group, AM General Division regarding the excessive number of engine compartment fires experienced by the Postal Service.

Any assistance you can provide to resolve this issue will be greatly appreciated. Should additional information be required, please contact Mr. Rosenak.

Sincerely,

Robert K. St. Francis

Director, Office of Fleet Management

Enclosure



Octobe: 6, 1987

Mr. Robert K. St. Francis Director. Office of Fleet Management U.S. Po: tal Service 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Rm. 7217 Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Bob:

In reference to your letter of September 21st, I had the opportunity to discuss the engine compartment fires experienced by the U.S. Postal Service with our people in Detroit during my visit last week.

The opinion rendered was that the engine fire problem was the responsibility of AM General rather than AMC as the FJ-8C was originally purchased from AM General.

On the other hard, matters involving AMC and your vehicles should be addressed to this office as we now have the responsibility for American Motors' products.

Please advise any time we may be of assistance.

Janas

F. R. Henderson Director, Government and Military Vehicle Sales

Enclosure

FRH:pfa

bcc: H.L. Barton J.V. Tracy

RECEIVED

OCT 8 1987

J. V. TRACY

CONTROL RAPET OF USPS 11-10-87 + 1411-87

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11-11-87

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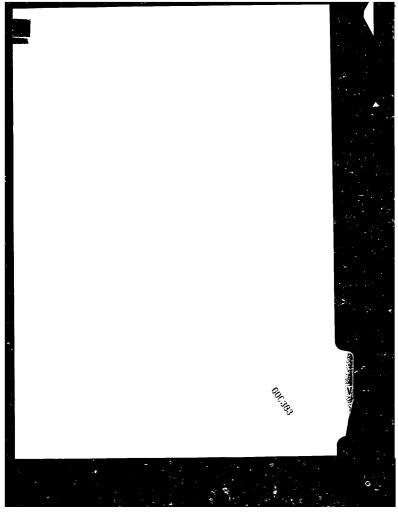
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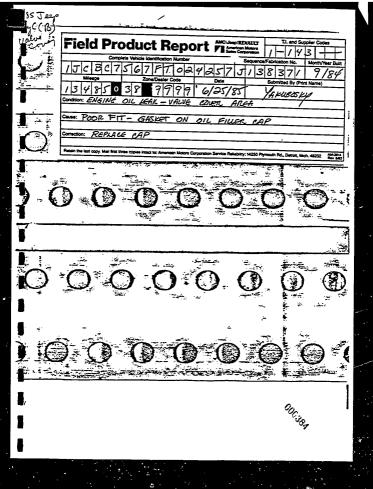
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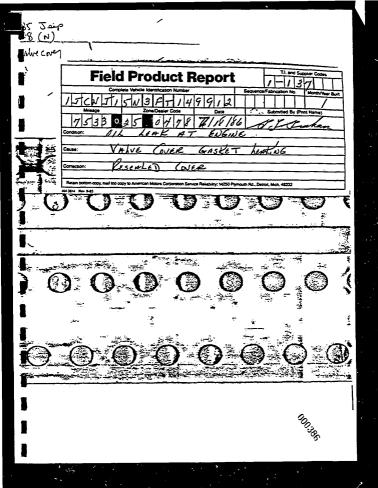
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TYPE: Warranty Litigation NAME:

Bettie Campbell v. AMSC et al District Court; Santa Fe City, Santa Fe, NM 1980 AMC Eagle; AVC385C256368

VEHICLE: SERVICE DATE:

12/28/83 DESCRIPTION: Owner alleges engine oil leaks.

ANALYSIS: This is a warranty related issue. No fire or injury reported.

TYPE: Warranty Litigation NAME: Douglas Newberry N'A

COURT: VEHICLE:

COURT:

SERVICE DATE:

1980 AMC Eagle; AVc365C204404 03/01/83

DESCRIPTION: Owner alleges oil leaks at head gasket cover. This is a warranty related issue.

ANALYSIS:

No fire or injury reported.

TYPE: Warranty Litigation NAME:

COURT: VEHICLE:

Tommy Brenton v. Jeep Corporation et al District Court; Union City; Farmerville, LA 1981 Jeep CJ-7: 1JCCM87E9BT004534 09/23/81 Owner alleges engine oil leaks.

SERVICE DATE: DESCRIPTION:

ANALYSIS:

This is a warranty related issue. No fire or injury reported.

TYPE:

Small Claims

NAME: COURT · VEHICLE: SERVICE DATE:

Charles E. Burke v. AMSC Small Claims; Westchester City; White Plains, NY 1981 AMC Eagle; 2CCCG3853BB700482

09/21/84 Owner alleges engine oil leaks.

DESCRIPTION: ANALYSIS:

This is a warranty related issue. No fire or injury reported.

TYPF . Warranty Litigation

NAME: Paul Czwalina v. AMSC et al COURT . Common Pleas Court; Luzerne City; Wilkes-Barre, PA

VEHICLE: 1981 AMC Eagle: 1ACCC3552BK156797 SERVICE DATE: 03/02/82

DESCRIPTION: Owner alleges engine oil leaks.

ANALYSIS: This is a warranty related issue.

No fire or injury reported.

TYPE: Warranty Litigation

Pamela Jenkins v. AMC et al NAME:

COURT -Common Pleas Court, Richland City: Columbia, SC VEHICLE: 1981 AMC Spirit; 1AMCC4350BK100264

SERVICE DATE: 03/22/82 DESCRIPTION: Owner alleges engine oil leaks.

ANALYSIS: This is a warranty related issue.

No fire or injury reported.

TYPE:

Warranty Litigation Robert Masson v. AMC et al NAME: Superior Court; Tompkins City; Ithaca, NY COURT: VEHICLE: 1981 AMC Eagle: 1ACCG5359BK112640

SERVICE DATE: 12/05/83

DESCRIPTION: Owner alleges engine oil leaks.

ANALYSIS: This is a warranty related issue.

No fire or injury reported.

TYPE:

Warranty Litigation NAME: Donald Miller v. Jeep Corporation et al COURT -Common Pleas Court; Luzerne City; Wilkes-Barre PA 1981 Jeep J-10: 1JTCM26N4BT031476

VEHICLE: SERVICE DATE: 11/09/81

DESCRIPTION: Owner alleges engine oil leaks.

ANALYSIS:

This is a warranty related issue. No fire or injury reported.

TYPE: NAME: COURT: Warranty Litigation

Dan Rapak v. AMC et al Superior Court; Mercer City, Trenton, NJ

VEHICLE: SERVICE DATE:

1981 AMC Eagle; 1ACCG3658BK154376

DESCRIPTION: ANALYSIS: Owner alleges engine oil leaks.

This is a warranty related issue.
No fire or injury reported.

TYPE:

Product Litigation

NAME: COURT: James Stewart v. AMC et al

VEHICLE: SERVICE DATE:

Circuit Court; Dune City; Madison, WI 1981 AMC Concord; 1AMCA0854BK100579 07/26/83

DESCRIPTION:

Owner alleges engine oil leak was repaired at an AMC dealership and subsequent fire damage resulted.

ANALYSIS:

No injuries reported.

11/03/83

TYPE:

Warranty Litigation Calvan Leasing AMC et al

COURT: VEHICLE: Superior Court; San Francisco County, San Francisco, CA 1982 Jeep CJ-5; 1JCCM851E3CT044273

SERVICE DATE: DESCRIPTION:

Owner alleges engine oil leaks.

ANALYSIS:

This is a warranty related issue. No fire or injury reported.

TYPE:

Warranty Litigation P. Jean Hall v. AWC et al Circuit Court; Floyd County; Prestonsbury, KY 1982 Jeep J-10; 1JTCM25N8CT045268

COURT: VEHICLE: SERVICE DATE: DESCRIPTION:

08/16/83 Owner alleges engine oil leaks

ANALYSIS:

This is a warranty related issue. No fire or injury reported.

OOOSS

TYPE: Warranty Litigation NAME: GMAC v. AMC et al

Circuit Court; Lelanau Ciry, Lelanau, MI 1983 Jeep Wagoneer; 1JCCJ15N5DT052173 COURT .

VEHICLE: SERVICE DATE: 12/12/83 Owner alleges engine oil leaks. DESCRIPTION:

ANALYSIS: This is a warranty related issue.

No fire or injury reported.

TYPE: Warranty Litigation

NAME: Pasieczny v. AMC et al Circuit Court: Wayne City: Monroe, MI COURT: 1983 AMC Eagle; 1ACCN5357dk121572 VEHICLE: SERVICE DATE: 06/03/85

DESCRIPTION: Owner alleges engine oil leaks. ANALYSIS: This is a warranty related issue.

No fire or injury reported.

TYPE: Warranty Litigation David Burum v. AMC et al NAME:

DESCRIPTION:

Superior Court, Kern City: Bakersfield, CA COURT: VEHICLE: 1984 Jeep Wagoneer: 1JCUC7551ET005833 SERVICE DATE: 01/23/84 Owner alleges engine oil leaks.

ANALYSIS: This is a warranty related issue

No fire or injury reported.

Warranty Litigation TYPE: NAME: Donald L. Curry v. AMSC

COURT: City Court; Lubbock City; Lubbock, TX VEHICLE: 1984 Jeep CJ-7: 1JCUM87A8ET053522 SERVICE DATE: 02/26/86

DESCRIPTION: Owner alleges engine oil leaks.

ANALYSIS: This is a warranty related issue. No fire or injury reported.

TYPE: Warranty Litigation NAME:

John H. Hughes v. AMC et al

Superior Court; San Diego City; San Diego, CA 1984 Jeep CJ-8: 1JCUL7826ET046606

VEHICLE: SERVICE DATE: DESCRIPTION:

COURT:

05/01/84 Owner alleges engine oil leaks.

ANALYSIS:

This is a warranty related issue.

No fire or injury reported.

TYPE: NAME: COURT

Warranty Litigation Philip Kendall v. AMC et al

VEHICLE: SERVICE DATE:

N/A 1984 Jeep Cherokee: 1JCUL7723ET000670 01/02/85

DESCRIPTION: ANALYSIS:

Owner alleges engine oil leaks.

This is a warranty related issue. No fire or injury reported.

TYPE: NAME: COURT: VEHICLE: Warranty Litigation Stephen Marcus v. AMC et al District Court; Worcester City; Westborough, MA 1984 Jeep CJ-7; lJCCM87E7ET134591

SERVICE DATE:

09/18/85 Owner alleges engine oil leaks.

DESCRIPTION: ANALYSIS:

This is a warranty related issue. No fire or injury reported.

TYPE: Warranty Litigation NAME: Catherine Norman v. AMC et al

District Court; Union City; Farmville, LA 1984 Jeep CJ-7: 1JCCM87E9ET050353 COURT VEHICLE: SERVICE DATE:

12/06/84

DESCRIPTION: ANALYSIS:

Owner alleges valve cover leakage. This is a warranty related issue.

No fire or injury reported.

00<sub>C.33K</sub>

TYPE . NAME: COURT: VEHTCLE: Subrogation:

State Farm Mutual Insurance Co. v. AMC et al District Court; Rapid City; Alexandria, LA 1984 Jeep CJ-7; 1JCUM87A3ET095256

SER-ICE DATE: DESCRIPTION:

07/16/86 Owner had vehicle serviced for alleged oil leak.

ANALYSIS:

After repair, fire ensued. No injuries reported.

TYPE: NAME: COURT: VEHICLE: Warranty Litigation Tidewater Utilities v. Jeep

Superior Court; Mercer City; Trenton, NJ 1984 Jeep Grand Wagoneer 1JCCJ15N7ET070841 10/10/84

SERVICE DATE: DESCRIPTION:

Owner alleges engine oil leaks.

ANALYSIS: This is a warranty related issue. No fire or injury reported.

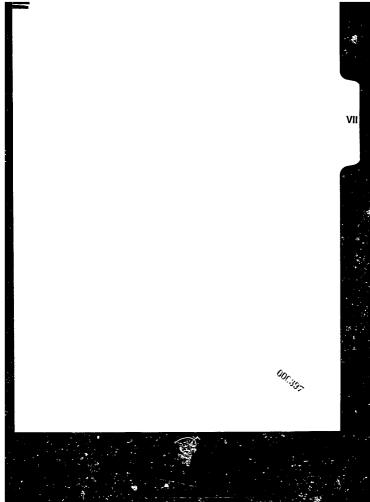
TYPE: NAME: COURT: Subrogation United Farm Bureau Mutual Ins. Co. v. AMC et al Circuit Court; Koscinsko City; Warsaw, IN 1984 AMC Eagle; 2CCCK3857EB701167

VEHICLE: SERVICE DATE: 06/28/85 DESCRIPTION:

Owner alleges fire caused by engine oil leaks.

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No injuries reported.



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